

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USING A VASCULAR INTRODUCER WITH AN ULTRASONIC PROBE

ABSTRACT

5 An apparatus and a method for using a vascular introducer with an ultrasonic probe to
remove a debris from a graft, fistula, vessel, port, or other vascular access device. The vascular
introducer for insertion into a vascular access device includes an elongated shaft having a distal
end and a proximal insertion end; an anchoring mechanism that resides within the elongated
shaft when the anchoring mechanism is in a retracted position and extends beyond the proximal
insertion end of the elongated shaft and engages an inner surface of the vascular access device
when the anchoring mechanism is in an extended position; and an activation mechanism that
moves the anchoring mechanism from the retracted position to the extended position. The
vascular introducer may further include a rotation mechanism that allows the vascular introducer
to change direction within the vascular access device without being removed from the vascular
access device.